

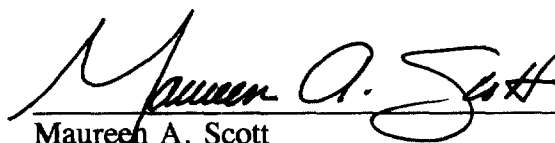
assessment statements.

In our original comments in Docket 80-286, we supported state administration of federal funds. However, given the requirements of the 1996 Act for separate and distinct universal service support mechanisms at the state and federal levels and the "large-scale information processing and data base capabilities" that will be necessary to manage the fund, we believe that the FCC should designate a third party administrator for federal fund administration. We believe that NECA has done an excellent job of administering the fund in the past and we would support their continued oversight and administration of the federal fund in the future.

III. Conclusion

The PaPUC appreciates the opportunity to provide comment in this important Docket and asks the Commission to adopt universal service rules consistent with the comments expressed herein. The PaPUC looks forward to participating in future stages of this proceeding, including the filing of reply comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen A. Scott", is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: April 11, 1996

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing INITIAL COMMENTS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING AND ORDER ESTABLISHING JOINT BOARD have been served this 12th day of April, 1996, upon all parties listed on the attached service list by first class mail, postage-prepaid.

Executed at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, this 11th day of April, 1996.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen A. Scott", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

Counsel for the Pennsylvania
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Attachment: Service List

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